AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method <u>for</u> ~~of~~ obtaining media data in a client device ~~from a plurality of media data servers on a network~~ the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

requesting media data from ~~accessing a~~ meta data server <u>on a media network</u>

<u>managed by a media service provider;</u>

receiving meta data from <u>the</u> ~~said~~ meta data server, <u>the meta data associated with</u>

<u>the requested media data;</u>

<u>using the received</u> ~~utilizing said~~ meta data to locate at least one <u>media</u> data

<u>server, the media data server separate from the media network and</u>

<u>controlled by a media data owner independent of the media service</u>

<u>provider</u> ~~of said plurality of media data servers on the network~~; <u>and</u>

accessing <u>the requested</u> ~~said~~ media data from <u>the</u> ~~said at least one~~ media data

server~~, wherein the accessed media data are not usable without additional~~

~~information; and~~

~~retrieving an encryption key for the accessed media data from the meta data~~

~~server, the encryption key allowing use of the media data.~~

2. (Currently amended) A ~~system for a~~ distributed media network <u>system</u> ~~and~~

~~meta data server, the system~~ comprising:

at least one meta data server <u>on a media network managed by a media service</u>

<u>provider, wherein in response to receiving a request for media data the</u>

<u>meta data server provides meta data associated with the requested media</u>

<u>data</u> ~~connected to a communications network~~;

at least one media data server ~~for retrieving requested media data, the at least one~~

~~media data server~~ <u>separate from the media network and controlled by a</u>

<u>media data owner independent of the media service provider</u> ~~connected to~~

~~the communications network, wherein the retrieved media data are not~~

~~usable without additional information~~; <u>and</u>

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12 at least one client ~~transceiver~~ connected to the <u>media</u> ~~communications~~ network

13 for <u>transmitting a request for media data to the meta data server, the client</u>

14 <u>using the meta data received from the meta data server to locate at least</u>

15 <u>one media data server and access the requested media data</u> ~~receiving,~~

16 ~~storing and messaging to said meta data server; and~~

17 ~~at least one meta data information source connected to said at least one meta data~~

18 ~~server, the meta data information source including an encryption key for~~

19 ~~decrypting retrieved media data.~~

1 3-4.   (Canceled)

1 5.   (Currently amended) The system as in claim 2, wherein a second client

2 ~~transceiver~~ of said at least one client ~~transceiver~~ functions as a first media data server of said

3 at least one media data server, and wherein the at least one meta data server informs said at

4 least one client ~~transceiver~~ that said second client ~~transceiver~~ functioning as a first media

5 data server has access to said requested media data.

1 6-8.   (Canceled)

1 9.   (Currently amended) A method for ~~receiving and processing~~ <u>servicing media</u>

2 <u>data</u> requests in a meta data server, ~~said requests received from a client on a communication~~

3 ~~network,~~ the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

4 receiving a media data request from <u>a</u> ~~said~~ client <u>on a media network managed by</u>

5 <u>a media service provider;</u>

6 <u>retrieving</u> ~~requesting~~ meta data <u>associated with the</u> ~~for said~~ media data request

7 <u>from a meta data database, the meta data for use by the client to access</u>

8 <u>the requested media data from a media data server, the media data server</u>

9 <u>separate from the media network and controlled by a media data owner</u>

10 <u>independent of the media service provider; and</u> ~~the requested meta data~~

11 ~~being for a portion of the requested media data that is not usable without~~

12 ~~an additional portion of the media data;~~

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13   transmitting <u>the</u> meta data ~~for said media data request~~ to <u>the</u> ~~said~~ client over the

14   <u>media</u> ~~communication~~ network [[;]]

15   ~~requesting additional meta data for another portion of the requested media data~~

16   ~~from a meta data database; and~~

17   ~~transmitting the additional meta data to said client over the communication~~

18   ~~network.~~

1   10.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the meta data contains

2 an address for at least one media data server, the method further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

3   designating a primary media data server of said at least one media data server

4   based upon criteria gathered from the <u>media</u> ~~communication~~ network.

1   11.   (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the primary media data server is

2 designated as a first media data server of the at least one media data server having the least

3 number of clients accessing media data files.

1   12.   (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the primary media data server is

2 designated as a first media data server of the at least one media data server having a highest

3 reliability rating.

1   13.   (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the primary media data server is

2 designated as a first media data server of the at least one media data server having the

3 highest data throughput.

1   14.   (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the primary media data server is

2 designated by the meta data server.

1   15.   (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the primary media data server is

2 designated by the client.

1   16-17. (Canceled)

1   18.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 9, <u>wherein the requested media</u>

2   <u>data are encrypted, the method</u> further comprising ~~the step of~~:

3   requesting an encryption key for the requested media data from a meta data

4   database<u>; and</u>

5   <u>transmitting the encryption key to the client.</u>

1   19.   (Canceled)

1   20.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein said meta data

2   comprises at least one data item, said at least one data item selected from the list of:

3   a network address of a primary server that has access to the media data file;

4   a directory structure of a primary storage device that contains the media data file;

5   a name of the media data file;

6   a network address of at least one alternate server that has access to the media data

7   file;

8   a directory structure of at least one alternate storage devices that contains the

9   media data file;

10   a name of and owner of the media data file;

11   a name of a composer of the media data file;

12   a name of the copyright holder of the media data file;

13   a network address of a server that has access to a graphical image associated with

14   the media data file;

15   a directory structure of a storage device that contains a graphical image

16   associated the media data file;

17   a name of a graphical image file associated the media data file; a title of an

18   artistic work contained in the media data file;

19   a title of a body of work in which the media data file is associated; a name of at

20   least one performer of the media data file;

21	a name of at least one composer of artistic work contained on the media data file;
22	a name of at least one creators of the media data file;
23	a network address of a server that has access to additional information about
24	artistic work contained in the media data file;
25	a directory structure of a storage device that contains additional information
26	about artistic work contained in the media data file;
27	a name of a file that contains additional information about artistic work contained
28	in the media data file;
29	a network address of a server which offers a sale of the media data file; a
30	directory structure of a storage device that contains sales information for
31	the media data file;
32	a name of a file that contains information on a sale of the media data file; a
33	network address of a server which offers a sale of associated products of
34	the media data file;
35	a directory structure of a storage device that contains sales information for the
36	associated products of the media data file; and
37	a name of a file that contains information on sales of associated products of the
38	media data file.

1	21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, further comprising:
2	receiving a log in request from said client over the communication network; and
3	performing a client access permission verification.

1	22. (Canceled)

1	23. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the meta data transmitted to the client
2	are for a portion of the requested media data that is unusable without an additional portion of
3	the requested media data, the method further comprising:
4	requesting additional meta data for the additional portion of the requested media
5	data; and
6	transmitting the additional meta data to the client.

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24. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the media data are encrypted, the method further comprising:

receiving an encryption key for the media data from the meta data server.

25. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the meta data received from the meta data server is for a portion of the requested media data that is unusable without an additional portion of the requested media data, the method further comprising:

receiving additional meta data for the additional portion of the requested media data from the meta data server; and

accessing the additional portion of the requested media data using the additional meta data.

26. (New) The system of claim 2, wherein the media data are encrypted, and the meta data server transmits and encryption key to the client for using the media data.

27. (New) The system of claim 2, wherein the meta data server transmits to the client meta data for a portion of the requested media data, the portion of the requested media data being unusable without an additional portion of the requested media data, and the meta data server further transmits to the client additional meta data for the additional portion of the requested media data, the client using the additional meta data to access the additional portion of the media data from a media data server.